Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits 2013 Quick Reference

		Species Open Season Minimum Size					
	All the Control of th	Species	Open Season		Daily Limit		
Non - tidal Waters		Largemouth bass	All year	12 inches; except 15 inches in Becks Pond	6; except 2 from Becks Pond		
	THE PARTY NAMED IN	Smallmouth bass	All year	None between 12 - 17 inches	6 (no more than 1 > 17 inches)		
		Striped bass hybrid (Only occur in Lums Pond)	All year	15 inches	2		
		Panfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, crappie, yellow & white perch)	All year	None	50 (no more than 25 of one species)		
		Trout (special rules apply)	Opens first Saturday in April	None	6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)		
		American eel	All year	6 inches	50		
		American & hickory shad	Closed Nanticoke R. & its tribs.; Open all year elsewhere	None	10 in any combination		
		Atlantic croaker	All year	8 inches	None		
		Atlantic sturgeon	•	Closed - no harvest perm			
		Black drum	All year	16" (DE River & Bay)	3 (DE River & Bay)		
		Black sea bass	Jan 1 - Feb 28 May 19 - Oct. 14 Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	12.5"	15 25 25		
		Bluefish	All year	None	10		
	REST	Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None		
		Red drum	All year	20 - 27 inches may be retained	5		
	litera.	River herring (alewife & blueback)		Closed - no harvest permitte	ed		
		Scup	All year	8 inches	50		
S.		Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	15		
Vate		Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None		
Tidal Waters		Striped bass	All year	28 inches, except only 20 - 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs.	2, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31		
		Summer flounder	Jan. 1 - Oct. 23	18"	4		
			Jan 1 - Mar 31	15"	5		
		_	April 1 - May 11	15"	3		
		Tautog	July 17 - Aug. 31	15"	5		
	Man -		Sept. 29 - Dec 31	15"	5		
		Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1		
		White perch	All year	8 inches	None		
	THE STATE OF THE S	Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 10	12 inches	2		
		Shark, tuna & billfish		Refer to back			
	Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish	Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches Hard-shell - 5 inches	1 bushel		
	for blue crabs and clams	Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	100/resident; 50/non-		
	ciums	Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches	resident 2; V-notched prohibited		
			j vui		,ottmes promoted		

2012 Sharks and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) **Species Open Season Minimum Size Daily Limit** Spiny & smooth None None All year dogfish Blacktip shark, bull shark, great Boat anglers- only 1 hammerhead, lemon shark of any species per 54 -inches FORK shark, nurse shark, Jan. 1 -May 14; vessel, except 1 additional scalloped hammerhead, July 16 - Dec. 31 LENGTH bonnethead and 1 silky shark, smooth additional Atlantic hammerhead, spinner sharpnose per angler shark, tiger shark onboard vessel. **Shore anglers** - only 1 Blue shark, oceanic shark of any species per Sharks *- Special permit may be required for federal waters white-tip shark, 54 -inches FORK angler, except 1 additional All year porbeagle, shortfin LENGTH bonnethead and one mako, thresher shark additional Atlantic sharpnose per shore Atlantic sharpnose angler. shark, blacknose shark, All year None bonnethead, finetooth shark The sandbar & sand tiger Sandbar shark, sand are toothed sharks commonly taken in the nearshore tiger, Atlantic angel waters of the state and are shark, basking shark, prohibited . Like all bigeye sand tiger, prohibited species, they must bigeye sixgill shark, be immediately released to bigeye thresher, ensure the maximum bignose shark, probability of survival. Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose SPECIES PROHIBITED shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark **Special Restrictions for Shark** It is unlawful to fillet a shark prior to landing. A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the carcass. It is unlawful to release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival (i.e. no gaffs, no clubbing, careful hook removal, etc.). It is unlawful to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the shark. *Special permit required - All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly unas and HMS* - Special Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for Atlantic tunas. personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly swordfish and billfish Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits.